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Attorney Docket No. HGM-107-A

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Nakajima et al.  
Serial Number: 10/660,109  
U.S. Filing Date: 11 September 2003  
Group Art Unit: 3617  
Examiner: Avila, Stephen P  
Confirmation Number: 6856  
Title: **DECK STRUCTURE FOR A PERSONAL WATERCRAFT**

**AMENDMENT-A**

Commissioner for Patents  
MAIL STOP NON-FEE AMENDMENT  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated July 13, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on Page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing beginning on page 3 of this paper.

Discussion begins on page 6 of this paper.

claimed by applicant. While many different lids are known for many purposes, applicant's claimed lid is configured to cover the rear opening formed in applicant's claimed deck. The small, vertically-oriented cover of Yamada does not render applicant's claimed combination obvious.

**Conclusion**

Applicant respectfully suggests that as presently amended, all of the pending claims are believed to be allowable.

It is applicant's contention that no possible reading of the references, either singly or in any reasonable combination, can be viewed as teaching applicant's claimed invention.

For all of the above mentioned reasons, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of record, and allowance of the pending claims.


Applicant respectfully submits that all of the above amendments are fully supported by the original application. Applicant also respectfully submits that the above amendments do not introduce any new matter into the application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge \$264.00 for three additional independent claim in excess of three (@\$88.00), as well as to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 50-0744 in the name of Carrier, Blackman & Associates, P.C. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Customer No. 21828  
Carrier, Blackman & Associates, P.C.  
24101 Novi Road, Suite 100  
Novi, Michigan 48375  
October 7, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

  
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**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted, via facsimile, to Examining Group 3617 of the United States Patent and Trademark Office on October 7, 2004, at the number (703) 872-9306.

